October 7 – 13, 2021 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 40 www.associatednewspapers.net

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 136, No. 40

Sumpter Township Director of Public Safety Eric Luke corrected erroneous reports that it police took 2 ½ hours to respond to a Judd Road traffic accident.

See page 3.

THE CANTON EAGLE
Vol. 74, No. 40

Veteran Canton Police Ofc. James Marinelli and Ofc. George Duncan will retire from the department this month.

See page 2.

THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
Vol. 74, No. 40

Michigan State Police are asking for information regarding a shooting Sept. 24 which left an Inkster woman hospitalized in critical condition.

See page 6.

THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
Vol. 210, No. 40

In keeping with the season, the Northville Art House will host the Live @ 5 Halloween Art Crawl from 5 until 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23.

See page 4.

THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE
Vol. 21, No. 40

Residents at Independence Village of Plymouth were offered a unique look at the skill and artistry of their neighbors recently during a Resident Expo.

See page 4.

THE ROMULUS ROMAN
Vol. 136, No. 40

Members of the Romulus City Council approved the plan for the171-acre multi-million dollar Romulus Trade Center by a 6-1 vote last week.

See page 6.

THE WAYNE EAGLE
Vol. 74, No. 40

The conduct of Wayne City Manager Lisa Nocerini is the basis of two separate lawsuits filed in U.S. District Court seeking monetary damages.

See page 5.

THE WESTLAND EAGLE
Vol. 74, No. 40

Federal assistance for area homeowners and survivors of the June 25 - 26 severe storms and flooding in Westland and other communities is still available from FEMA.

See page 6.

Romulus school superintendent is suspended

Romulus Community Schools Superintendent Dr. Benjamin Edmonson has been placed on paid administrative leave by members of the board of education.

School board members voted 4-3 to place Edmonson on leave during a contentious public meeting last week while financial improprieties reported by an independent consultant are being investigated. Much of the meeting, including many comments from board members and the public, remained confusing and unintelligible due to some technical issues and the outspoken disapproval of many audience members.

Following a lengthy and detailed report, off camera, by Mike Dixon, a management consultant hired by the board members, the motion to suspend Edmonson, with pay, pending an investigation was approved. Some board members appeared surprised by the motion which was added to the agenda by the district finance committee.

> *The current administrative structure doesn't appear to be conducive to preparing any type of efficient audit.*

Dixon, who has been working with the district for about 6-8 weeks, repeatedly stressed the financial problems the district is facing, including a late audit and the disarray which exists, he said, in the business office. Dixon told the board that there were numerous material weaknesses in the audit and that financial processes were not followed. He said that the business office was staffed with employees who had little or no training.

"They are dedicated people, they just need guidance," Dixon said.

In addition to the purchasing and record keeping deficits, Dixon referred to "numerous credit card purchases" that were "without receipts" and said that those discrepancies had been reported to the board members previously in a communication from the district finance committee.

He said that the credit card statements with no backup documentation from the administrative office were "a serious problem." He also noted the issuance of several smaller invoices to one business entity for the possible purpose of avoiding competitive bidding.

"The current administrative structure doesn't appear to be conducive to preparing any type of efficient audit," Dixon

See **Schools,** page 6

Centennial and counting

Canton resident marks 106th birthday with family and friends

Staying social and engaging with others, having a support system and passion for life - plus some good genes might be key to living to be 106 for Virginia Bett of Canton Township who celebrated her birthday recently at Waltonwood Cherry Hill Senior Living.

Dressed in her favorite color - red - and with red velvet cupcakes, rose gold balloons and with friends and members of her family, the entire day was a celebration for Bett. The 106-year-old mother of two, who is also an avid painter, credits great care and her love for art as part of her positive attitude for living a happy life.

"And perhaps a bit of wine at dinner while we were growing up," her son Bruce Bett added with a smile. Bett was there to celebrate his mom's landmark celebration - while her other son living in the U.P. will visit later this month.

Bett is one of the 1 percent of Americans who currently are living beyond the age of 100 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In Michigan, 3 percent live to be older than 100. Last July, Waltonwood Carriage Park resident Bonita Gibson celebrated her 110th birthday.

Bett, who was born and raised in Des Moines, Iowa, met her husband at a fair and together they raised their two sons in Grand Blanc, and then Ann Arbor. Her husband was an economics professor at the University of Michigan, and in her own career as a teacher, she helped co-found a daycare center in Grand Blanc. She has been painting for years.

Virginia Bett

"What she loves most is painting including oils, but she shines most in watercolors," her son said.

At her party, local musician John Latini provided entertainment and the Waltonwood culinary team made her favorite foods including the red velvet cupcakes. Gifts for Bett included framed pictures of her family and of her own paintings. It was a day to acknowledge all of her accomplishments, her son said.

"We know that having access to great care, nutritious meals and access to a social life helps people enjoy more fulfilling lives -which leads to longer lives," said Tiffiany Tucker, executive director of Waltonwood Cherry Hill in Canton. "For Virginia's birthday, we wanted to make it all about things she loves - like the color red."

Sumpter receives highest possible financial audit rating

Sumpter Township received the highest possible rating on the recent financial audit of the municipal finances and practices.

Rana Emmons, from outside accounting firm Post, Smythe, Lutz and Zeal, told the board members during the Sept. 28 meeting that the "clean" audit found no exceptions or disclosures by the financial professionals.

She said that while state shared revenue was flat and there was a decrease in income from building permits, the township managed to increase the fund balance by $419,000. There was, she said, a 2-percent overall increase in property values in the township which added to revenue received without any millage rate increase.

> *This is a very specific audit. The state says you have complied with all regulations and procedures.*

Emmons also noted that the township was able to pay $500,000 in water bond debt with $2.5 million remaining on those bonds.

She commended the board members for their contributions to the MERS pension fund which has reduced the township liability "significantly". She noted that during the current financial climate, many municipalities have been unable to make extra payments or reduce that outstanding liability.

"The township did very well on the pension investments," Emmons said. "Sumpter was able to pay $440,000 extra into the pension fund. I have to commend the board for the extra pension contribution which is a great idea. It puts the township money to work."

She explained that the township pension liability is now 84 percent funded, far above the average of other communities.

"Again, I have to commend this board for making pensions a priority for at least three years that I can see. You have very methodically invested the pension funds to get to the 84 percent. That extra contribution allows you to ride out any downturn in the economy," she said.

At the request of Trustee Tim Rush, Emmons explained that the township bond rating is now at an A minus, which, she said, is very strong.

Trustee Matt Oddy asked the Certified Public Accountant if there were any violations of commingling of grant funds or any financial improprieties found during the audit.

"No, we did not find anything that would indicate that," she said. "This is a very specif-

See **Audit,** page 3

Canton

2 veteran police officers to retire this month

Two veteran officers of the Canton Township Police Department will retire this month.

Police Ofc. James Marinelli who began his career with the department on Sept. 16,1996 will leave the department.

Marinelli was assigned as a road patrol officer responding to calls for service, initiating contact with individuals and participating in the community policing practices of the department. During his career, in addition to his patrol duties, Marinelli was active on numerous special units including Evidence Technician, Range Officer, Field Training Officer, Fire Investigation Unit, Special Enforcement Unit, and as an investigator in the Canton Detective Bureau and on a multi-jurisdictional Narcotics Interdiction Team.

> *While they will be missed, we wish them the very best in their retirement.*

Marinelli has the distinction of being the first former member of the department Explorer Unit to be hired as a police officer. The Explorer Unit is a program designed for teens interested in a career in law enforcement - a unit he would later serve on as a mentoring officer.

Officer George Duncan will also retire this month. Duncan began his career with the department on Sept. 11, 2000.

He was assigned as a road patrol officer responding to calls for service, initiating contact with individuals and participating in departmental community policing practices. In addition to his patrol duties, Duncan was active on several special units including Evidence Technician, Bicycle Unit, Range Officer, Rapid Response Unit, Patrol Rifle Instructor, and Field Training Officer.

Duncan worked his way into being one the department's range experts, working with his fellow officers on weapons training and annual qualifications. Last year, he was selected as the first Training Coordinator in the department, in charge of all training department-wide.

"These two law enforcement officers possess individual attributes that have made them valued employees," said Chad Baugh, director of police services. "While they will be missed, we wish them the very best in their retirement, extending our sincere gratitude for their distinguished years of service they've devoted to protecting and serving Canton."

Ofc. James Marinelli

Ofc. George Duncan

Monster Mash will return Oct. 16

There will be ghosts, vampires and probably a celebrity or two at the 3rd annual Cherry Hill Village Monster Mash in Canton.

The event, strictly for the 21 and older crowd will begin at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16 at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

The adult Halloween party will feature favorite top 40 hits and Halloween covers by Atomic Radio. Guests can also participate in a costume contest and enjoy a cash bar. In addition, participants will be treated to a unique experience as the main focus of the event will be a dance party on stage where there will be a bar and tables for seating in between dancing.

> *We are thrilled to be able to bring back our Monster Mash this year.*

"We are thrilled to be able to bring back our Monster Mash this year, since community members are eager for this type of adult event, featuring costumes and cocktails, as well as great dance music," said Ben Frick, Canton performing arts coordinator. "This event is designed to bring everyone together for a night celebrating Halloween without having to travel outside of Canton."

Tickets for the event are $15 for Canton residents and $20 for non-residents and can be purchased online at www.cantonvillagetheater.org or by calling (734)394-5300. Tickets can also be purchased at The Village Theater Box Office one hour prior to event time.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton.

Additional information about the event is available at the numbers listed above.

Saturday yard waste collection continues

Residential yard waste collection on Saturday will continue through Oct. 20 in Canton Township.

Trash hauler GFL consolidated yard waste collection to Saturdays in August in an effort to help remain current on residential garbage and recycling collections, according to a prepared statement from the township.

Curbside collection of garbage and recycling will remain the same, only yard-waste collections are moving to Saturday. After Oct. 30, yard waste collections will resume on regular collection days.

All garbage, recycling and yard waste must be placed at the curb by 6:30 a.m. to ensure pick-up. For up-to-date information on collection information visit www.canton-mi.org/216 or on facebook.com/cantongovernment.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
OCTOBER 14, AND OCTOBER 21, 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **PUBLIC HEARINGS** will be held by the Township Board of Trustees on **Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. and Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.** at Northville Township Hall, 44405 Six Mile Rd., Northville, MI 48168. The purpose of the hearing is to review the 2022 proposed budget.

All interested residents are invited to attend. Comments and questions concerning the proposed budget will be heard at the public hearing. A copy of the 2022 proposed budget will be available for public inspection at the Township Clerk's office beginning September 27th between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and on the Township's website at www.twp.northville.mi.us.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

Roger Lundberg, Clerk
Charter Township of Northville

Publish: October 7, 2021

NT0153 - 100721 2.5 x 2.862

Notice of Public Hearing
Charter Township of Canton, Michigan
2022-2026 FIVE-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Canton will be holding a virtual Zoom and in-person **Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 7:00 P.M.** to receive public input on the Canton Leisure Services 2022-2026 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. All individuals who currently reside in Canton Township are encouraged to attend in person or by accessing the Zoom meeting at www.canton-mi.org/AgendaCenter/Canton-Board-of-Trustees-2-2 and will be offered an opportunity at said hearing to voice any comments they may have regarding the Five Year Master Plan. Any and all input is greatly appreciated.

Canton Leisure Services is preparing this Five-Year Master Plan in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements. When completed, the plan will serve as a guide for the acquisition and development of community recreation facilities and programs over the next five (5) years. This Public Hearing is being held to receive public input on the 2022-2026 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan at the Canton Board of Trustees meeting on November 9, 2021, at 7 p.m. at the Canton Administrative Building (1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan).

Participants may provide input prior to the hearing date by submitting comments to leisure@canton-mi.org or via mail to Greg Hohenberger, Canton Leisure Services Director, 1150 S. Canton Center, Canton, Michigan, 48188.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with disabilities who require special accommodations, auxiliary aids or services to attend/participate at the meeting/hearing should contact Canton Human Resources at 734/394-5260. Reasonable accommodations can be made with advance notice. A complete copy of the Access to Public Meetings Policy is available at www.canton-mi.org

Publish: October 7, 2021

CN2298 - 100721 2.5 x 3.177

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon notice to the Charter Township of Canton.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Charter Township of Canton will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title II of the ADA.

Effective Communication: The Charter Township of Canton will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the Charter Township of Canton's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The Charter Township of Canton will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in the Charter Township of Canton's offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton should contact the office of Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Coordinator, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Charter Township of Canton to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Coordinator, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260.

The Charter Township of Canton will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

Publish: 10/07/21

CN2297 - 100721 2.5 x 4.72

SUMPTER

Police chief corrects erroneous response report

It did not take Sumpter Police officers 2 ½ hours to respond to a traffic accident last week, despite published reports.

Sumpter Township Director of Public Safety Eric Luke corrected the erroneous information during the Sept. 28 meeting of the trustees. He said that a local newspaper had printed an account of a Sept. 12 traffic accident on Judd Road claiming that police did not respond until 11 p.m. to an 8:30 p.m. accident.

Luke said that the dispatcher received a report of the vehicle crash and was informed there were no injured parties at the scene.

"At that time, we were responding to two higher priority calls," Luke said. "One was a suicidal juvenile and the other was a drunk driving arrest."

He said officers responded to the scene of the incident in question within 30 minutes and determined that a tire had blown out in one vehicle involved. He said there was a great deal of yelling at the scene as the passenger in one vehicle was drunk. Officers located the second vehicle involved in the incident very close to the scene, he said.

"I want to make sure the public knows that we will always respond. We were there within 30 minutes, at 9:02 p.m. We are proud of the response time in our department. Only a higher priority call will delay our officers," he said.

Luke said it was "dangerous" for anyone to think it took police 2 hours to respond to a call.

> This is like terrorism. There have been dozens and dozens of false allegations, week after week they keep coming.

"We did our job," he said. Luke said it would have taken less time for the writer of the misinformation to reach out to him to get the correct response time than it did for "her to type it for publication."

Trustee Matt Oddy said this was more of the unfortunate misinformation repeatedly being published.

"This was printed in a heading of Extra Things I Know and people think it's true and that the editor actually knows," he said. He asked township attorney Rob Young if the township had any legal recourse in light of the misinformation and lies being published.

"The township has no standing to sue," Young said, "but individuals have standing. It is a tough legal standard."

"I feel your pain," responded Trustee Tim Rush who was awarded a financial settlement from the publication earlier this year as damages for the publication of falsehoods.

"This is like terrorism" Oddy said. "There have been dozens and dozens of false allegations, week after week they keep coming. We have a passion for this community and I will continue to defend our employees and our residents."

Township Supervisor Tim Bowman was also critical of the publication.

"I don't like being called a liar and a thief. I have been advertising in that paper for 30 years or longer. I took all three of my ads out this week. I don't plan on ever advertising in that paper again."

Trustees approve employment contract for fire chief

Members of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees approved the employment contract for Fire Chief Rick Brown during the Sept. 28 meeting.

The approval came following a request from Township Clerk Esther Hurst who requested a change in the contract language. Hurst requested a change that would give the township director of public safety the authority to suspend rather than terminate the fire chief pending approval of the township board.

"My thought is that the board hires and the board fires. That is my reason for suggesting the change," she said.

Trustee Peggy Morgan said that "nobody should have the power to dictate to the fire chief."

"I have an issue with it," she said. I've seen contracts for years and I've never seen one written like this."

Trustee Matt Oddy said that he would agree with the change to the termination clause proposed by Hurst, but felt the fire chief should report to the public safety director.

"It makes no sense to have an employee with no direct supervisor. The board is not around full time. This makes sense," Oddy said.

> *My thought is that the board hires and the board fires. That is my reason for suggesting the change,*

Township attorney Rob Young explained to Morgan that she hadn't seen a contract like this one because there hasn't been one. He said the only time the public safety director has oversight is with the fire chief.

He suggested asking Brown if he was happy with the contract.

"Whether Chief Brown approves it or not, I have problem with it," Morgan said. "I've seen contracts for years and never seen one written the way this one is."

Township Supervisor Tim Bowman agreed with Oddy that the public safety director should oversee the fire chief.

"I 100-percent agree. Chief Luke is doing a fine job. There is a lot of change over there. They are doing something right. They are looking good," he said.

Hurst explained that she suggested the contract language give the public safety director the authority to suspend rather than terminate the fire chief.

"We can call a special meeting" to review the situation if there is an immediate issue, she said.

The contract language was changed and approved by unanimous vote of the trustees.

Audit

FROM PAGE 1

ic audit. We are trained to look for that. There is a whole list of questions the state requires us to answer. The state says you have complied with all regulations and procedures," she said.

Oddy said his question was in response to a recent letter printed in a local newspaper attributed to Ronald Barrington Robinson who claimed financial malfeasance by the current members of the board.

Oddy went on to say that he felt the board members had a duty to counter the misinformation being published.

"We need residents to hear from you that you looked and didn't find" any such misuse of funds. Oddy added that the misinformation being published is harmful to the entire community.

"The writer is common in these letters that continue to be published.

"Businesses get hurt, residents get hurt by this misinformation. People don't want to start a business here or move to the township. It is harmful to the entire community," Oddy added.

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Northville - Plymouth

Skill set

Seniors show off talents at expo

Residents at Independence Village of Plymouth were offered a unique look at the skill and artistry of their neighbors recently during a Resident Expo. Residents, with decades of experience and proven talent, set up displays in the lobby of the residence and invited their neighbors to view their craftsmanship and artistry. Displays included quilting, woodworking, musical instruments, and baskets. One resident shared stories of her travel experiences around the world while Joanne Schwendenmann offered samples of her culinary skill with cookies and other treats. Bill Brown, who just celebrated his 100th birthday, shared his talent for building model airplanes in his apartment. Brown still occasionally flies with his son, also Bill Brown, while Lynne Reglein showed her quilting skills and Don and Jeanne Clemons displayed their collection of Native American flutes to admirer Carolyn Schroeder.

Northville Art House to host 'Halloween Art Crawl'

In keeping with the season, the Northville Art House will host the Live @ 5 Halloween Art Crawl from 5 until 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23 in downtown Northville. While costumes are optional at the event, guests can meet and mingle with artists, listen to live music, enjoy refreshments, participate in creative art experiences, win prizes and purchase works of art by Metro Detroit artists.

Northville Art House Executive Director Erin Maten said she is looking forward to the event.

"The art crawl brings together local artists, businesses, and nonprofits to celebrate and support creativity, collaboration, and commerce in the community," she said.

Halloween costumes are not mandatory, but guests are encouraged to get into the holiday spirit as they begin their art crawl at one of the following venues and go from there, she added.

One attraction is The Haunted Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady St. where paintings and illustrations inspired by pop-culture of venue artist Jeff Von Buskirk will be featured. Guests can talk with the artist, take home his adult coloring book, and help paint a 4 x 6 foot mural designed by the artist. Also on view will be interpretations of the urban environment through paintings by Dale Alcocer and photographs by Lawrence Hamilton, Bill Schahfer, and J. Gordon Rodwan. All guests to the haunted Art House can have a portrait taken by professional photographer Jessica Swyt of JGO Photography and enter an online Halloween costume contest. Live acoustic and pop rock music performed by The Swift Brothers. Drink with an appetizer will be provided by Genitti's Hole-in-the-Wall.

> *The art crawl brings together local artists, businesses, and nonprofits to celebrate and support creativity, collaboration, and commerce in the community.*

Garage Grill & Fuel Bar, 202 W. Main St. will also join the Halloween event when visitors can meet venue artist, sculptor, and community activist John Suavé as he shares his work and most recent Man in the City sculpture project created in collaboration with the Northville Living & Learning Enrichment Center. Guests can decorate a Man on the City wooden sculpture as they learn about the artist, the project, and the nonprofit helping individuals with autism and related challenges in the community. Live jazz performed by the Greg Ayers Duo. Drink with an appetizer served. Artist sponsored by The Northville Gallery Artwork and Framing.

Sweet Brew'n Spice Café, 133 W. Main St, #230 in Northville Square will treat guests to venue artist Sara Hadley painting portraits of live models and purchase her portrait and plein-air works of art. Live Detroit Americana and soulful folk music performed by Ryan Dillaha. Drink with an appetizer served.

Tickets are $75 and available for purchase t www.northvilleart-house.org/liveat5

Tickets include one drink and an appetizer at each venue. Additional refreshments will be available for purchase. Tickets are non-refundable and only a limited number of tickets will be sold. There is a discount for Art House members and the event is for those 21 and older.

The Live @ 5 Halloween Art Crawl is a fundraiser for the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Northville Art House Inc. Each ticket has a tax-deductible amount of $35 that benefits the organization'mission to cultivate creative experiences and education programs in the community.

Classified

TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD CALL 734-467-1900

59. Auctions

PUBLIC AUCTION
MARTIN'S TOWING
17180 DIX TOLEDO
BROWNSTOWN MI 48193
OCTOBER 11, 2021
10:00 A.M.

2010 NISSAN
3N1BC1CPXAL372418
2006 PONTIAC
1G2ZH558564188371
2015 NISSAN
1N4AL3AP8FC230715
2016 FORD
1FTYE1CG4GKB072246
2014 NISSAN
JN1AR5EG3EM110072
2006 JEEP
1J4HR48N66C118488
2014 JEEP
2C3CDXDT1EH334768
2019 CHEVROLET
3GNAXJEV4KS628916
2001 BMW
WBABS33401JY52019
2011 FORD
1FAHP3FN6BW195837
2008 CHEVROLET
2G1WF52E559389318
2010 CHEVROLET
2G1WB5EKXA1106174
2002 BUICK
2G4WS52J821271429
2000 CHEVROLET
1GCCT19W3Y8167614
2016 WABASH
1JJV532D5GL928668
1992 TERRY
1EA1C2423N2933862
2013 CHEVROLET
KL8CB6S9XDC583244
1997 FORD
2FALP73W7VX229162

ROMULUS POLICE DEPT
11165 OLIVE ST.
ROMULUS, MI. 48174

VEHICLES LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN DEEMED ABANDONED AND WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION ON 10/22/21 @ 12:00 LOCATED AT J&M TOWING 8964 INKSTER RD ROMULUS MI 48174

2009 FORD FOCUS
1FAHP35N09W125875
2005 FORD FREESTYLE
FMZK02115GA01384
2005 CHRYSLER
SEBRING
1C3EL56RX5N682478
2009 DODGE CHARGER
2B3KA33V09H616998
1999 FORD EXPLORER
1FMZU34E6XUA97786
2007 BUICK
RENDEZVOUS
3G5DA03L37S520059
2007 MERCURY MILAN
3MEHM08117R601785
2018 HYUNDAI SANTA FE
KM8SRDHF4JU280512
2003 BUICK LESABRE
1G4HP52K63U126334
2006 HYUNDAI SONATA
5NPEU46F76H091535
2007 CHEVROLET
2G1WB58N879109915
2008 FORD TAURUS
1FAHP25W98G181728
2005 CHEVROLET
2G1WX12K759359071
2009 NISSAN XTERRA
5N1AN08W49C514567
1995 KAWASAKI
JKAZX4F19SA007188
2018 TOATOA
L9NTCBAE9J1017080
2004 EAST
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WAYNE

Lawsuits target conduct of Wayne city manager

> *That prosecution of Blackwell is also a crucial issue in the case filed against the city by Hughes, 2015 Wayne Police Officer of the Year.*

The conduct of Wayne City Manager Lisa Nocerini is the basis of two separate lawsuits filed in U.S. District Court seeking monetary damages from the city and city officials.

Attorneys for the city last week filed responses to both lawsuits denying all the assertions of the plaintiffs who each single out Nocerini's conduct as the basis for the award of monetary compensation.

Criminal charges filed against Wayne resident Mark Blackwell are central to the lawsuits filed by both Blackwell and Wayne Police Sgt. Abraham Hughes.

Blackwell is seeking damages for the harm and violation of his civil rights when misdemeanor charges of stalking and disturbing the peace were filed against him. He contends that Nocerini influenced those charges against him in retribution for his criticisms of her job performance at public meetings. Those charges were summarily dismissed by Garden City District Court Judge Richard L. Hammer who found that Blackwell was within his rights and that the conduct cited in the complaint was constitutionally protected.

Blackwell contends in his court filings that the charges filed against him were a misuse of authority by Nocerini and that without her influence and interference in the process, he would not have been charged and subsequently forced to incur the financial burden of a legal defense or the subsequent damage to his reputation, along with mental anguish.

That prosecution of Blackwell is also a crucial issue in the case filed against the city by Hughes, 2015 Wayne Police Officer of the Year. In his latest court filings, Hughes claims that Nocerini used her position of authority to interfere with the selection of a new police chief in her efforts to have Blackwell charged.

Hughes claims that he has video of an official from EMCO, the outside company employed by the city in 2018 to perform testing for a new police chief, admitting that Hughes obtained the highest score in that testing. He also asserts that both he and the other candidate for the job, current Chief Ryan Strong, were assured repeatedly by city and EMCO officials that the promotion would be based solely on those independent test scores. He infers that Strong's agreement to serve a warrant on Blackwell was the inducement for Nocerini to interfere in the hiring procedures and award the position to Strong.

Hughes claims the video and sworn affidavit from an EMCO employee, along with the timing and procedures in the serving of the warrant on Blackwell, prove Nocerini's interference in the process. Hughes also presented the court with signed affidavits from a number of former Wayne city officials and employees attesting to witnessing misuse of authority by Nocerini. Court filings including sworn statements from a former police chief, a director of personnel, a former city clerk and elected officials, among others.

The city has continued to deny all the allegations in the lawsuits and has produced a letter from an EMCO employee asserting that Strong received the highest test scores.

Mayor John Rhaesa has stated previously that the "lawsuits are completely without factual or legal merit and will be aggressively defended. As it pertains to both cases, the city looks forward to the exoneration of the city and its hard-working employees as it relates to both matters."

One former official, who asked not to be identified for fear of retaliation, said it is very clear that Nocerini "has weaponized the police department."

The official cited another case currently in the court system in which Nocerini personally hired a private investigator to pursue evidence and witnesses in an effort to criminally charge a former elected official. She claimed the official, with an accomplice, planted a weapon and suspicious substances in her car. Those criminal charges were filed only after the state police investigation found them without merit but reopened based on evidence submitted by Nocerini's investigator. Those charges have not yet been decided in court.

Based on those case filings, however, Nocerini filed a lawsuit against the city for damages she claimed she suffered as a result of being victimized and accepted a financial settlement of an undisclosed amount from the city insurer in the matter.

Lisa Nocerini

High school Homecoming 'royalty' to be crowned Friday

> *Students are voting now to determine which of their peers will be selected for the two homecoming royalty positions.*

There will be no Homecoming King or Queen at Wayne Memorial or John Glenn High School this year.

There will, however, be royalty and some crowns bestowed. Both high schools decided to do away with the gender-specific titles and announce the victors as homecoming "royalty" instead, which can be students of any gender.

Last school year, Wayne Memorial High School brought the idea to change the homecoming gender-specific titles to the attention of the student council. The leadership students at John Glenn High School learned of the concept this summer and the concept was presented to students at both schools. Students agreed and the change in the conventional terminology was adopted. The change is also an effort to be more inclusive for those who do not conform to traditional gender identities and to ensure all students have the opportunity to feel included, a spokesman for the district said in a prepared statement.

Students are voting now to determine which of their peers will be selected for the two homecoming royalty positions. John Glenn High School Homecoming was last Friday and followed a parade along Marquette.

Homecoming at Wayne Memorial High School is planned for Oct. 15 when the royalty will be announced during halftime. This football game is also the annual Crosstown Rival and will start at 7 p.m. There is a $5 admission fee to enter the William Elliot Athletic Field. In addition, the community can support the school on the parade route, which kicks off at 5 p.m. on Fourth Street off of Ash Street, then proceed toward Glenwood Road and head east to the William Elliot Athletic Field.

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Inkster - Romulus - Westland

Council members OK Romulus Trade Center project

Members of the Romulus City Council approved the plan for the171-acre multi-million dollar Romulus Trade Center by a 6-1 vote last week.

Councilwoman Virginia Williams cast the lone vote and repeatedly voiced her opposition and objections to the project. Williams began her criticisms of the Trade Center, expected to bring 1,180 jobs to the city and $55 million in real property tax revenue to the school district, during a motion to rezone the property to conform to the needs of the developer, NorthPoint Development.

Williams questioned the procedures of the rezoning and the unanimous recommendation of the city property disposition committee to sell two parcels of land owned by the city to the developer. She also said she was opposed to the plan for a Royal Farms facility in the project.

"To say it is a restaurant is an insult," she said. "Residents have been crying for too long. What we are getting is seven industrial buildings. Residents want to have a place to buy shoes or socks."

Williams went on to criticize the conduct of the previous council members who approved the Amazon facility in the city and referred to "the destruction Amazon has caused."

She was critical of the negotiated plan for the Romulus Trade Center and said that the city representatives should have "stayed at the table until we got something the residents wanted."

> *I wish everybody had seen this presentation. If we don't get something over there, there never will be development.*

"I don't agree with my colleagues. I don't care what they think," she said. "We should consider our vote and how it affects residents," she said.

Councilman William Wadsworth said that he agreed that the city needs a grocery store, "but we have a motion on the floor and we should move forward."

Following the vote approving the project, Councilwoman Eva Webb said that she wanted to clarity some statements.

"Ecorse Road doesn't belong to Romulus. That is a county road. We are in negotiations with Wayne County," Webb said in response to Williams criticisms of the two-lane rather than four-lane roadways in the city.

"There is nothing over there on Vining Road. We are the only council who has gotten to the point where we almost get something over there," Webb said.

Webb also responded to Williams' assertions about the need for retail at the Trade Center noting that the outskirts of the project are ready to be leased for retail stores.

"We have to put something there to get others to come here," she said.

"As for the restaurant, it is not a Speedway type. We all have a choice where we get gas and where we want to eat," she said.

"I wish everybody had seen this presentation. If we don't get something over there, there never will be development," Webb said.

NorthPoint has agreed to install 1,700 trees and 5,700 shrubs and decorative grasses at the site and has agreed to install multiple sidewalks inside and at the entire perimeter of the development, connecting the area to several other parts of the city. The developer also agreed to an engineering plan to limit trucks to one driveway and keep them off local roads.

Williams also cast the only no vote at the first reading of the plan at the Sept. 13 meeting.

Flood assistance is still available

> *Wayne County was allocated $5,593,057 by the State of Michigan to fund this program.*

Federal assistance for area homeowners and survivors of the June 25 - 26 severe storms and flooding is still available. Residents who suffered damage can still register with FEMA for individual disaster assistance. The deadline for assistance has been extended to Friday, Nov. 12, and applies to survivors living in Wayne County.

The $5.5 million flood assistance program is available to assist homeowners recovering from the historic rainfall that resulted in flood and sewer damages to thousands of households. Eligible residents can receive grants to help cover the cost of replacing goods, labor, and insurance deductibles related to flood damage, but not covered by FEMA or property insurance.

Wayne County was allocated $5,593,057 by the State of Michigan to fund this program. Grants will be distributed to impacted residents to cover damages and costs. To be eligible, the applicant's property must be located in Wayne County (outside of Detroit) and the property must be their residence, the damage must have occurred because of the June 25-26 weather events, and applicants must have applied for FEMA assistance. Detroit residents can apply for assistance through a parallel program operated by the City of Detroit. Applicants will need to submit an itemized quote and/or receipt from their contractor(s). To apply for relief, residents can go to the Wayne County Economic Development website and provide application materials including: Proof of residence; insurance claim (if applicable); FEMA application number; itemized quote and/or receipt for contractor work (if applicable) and photos of damaged belongings.

The applications will now be accepted until Nov. 12, according to the office of Wayne County Executive Warren Evans.

Michigan State Police seek suspect in shooting of woman

Michigan State Police are asking for information regarding a shooting Sept. 24 which left an Inkster woman hospitalized.

According to police reports, very little is known about the incident when a 22-year-old woman was shot several times when she answered her door. Police were called to the Lovett Avenue residence when the shooting was reported at about 10 p.m. that Friday. Police reports indicate only that the suspect was an unknown man who shot the victim with a handgun multiple times while standing on the front porch. He then fled the scene in a waiting vehicle, although police have no description of the car.

The victim was immediately rushed to the hospital by EMTs where she remained in critical condition at press time.

Police said the investigation is ongoing and requested that anyone with information about the incident contact the Michigan State Police at (734) 287-5000.

Schools

FROM PAGE 1

said. "There are way too many issues."

Dixon suggested the board hire an outside investigator to review the credit card situation and that the board members adopt a new procedure for purchasing. He also suggested the board members appoint a committee to review expenditures prior to board approval and that purchases in excess of $5,000 be approved by the board members.

Edmonson responded to Dixon's report noting that when he came to the district, he "informed everybody we had problems. Week after week I said this needs to be addressed and what support did I get? A Title IX grievance filed against me." Title IX is a federal anti-discriminatory regulation.

One board member agreed and commented that "his hands were tied."

Following the vote, Edmonson immediately gathered his papers and left the meeting as the loud comments of the audience and board members became unintelligible with shouts of "recall" and various other overlapping statements prompting Board President Debbi Pyles to attempt to immediately adjourn the meeting, despite the continued shouting.

The independent financial audit will be performed by the law firm of Clark Hill PLC. An investigation of this type should be complete in about two weeks, according to an independent source.

The board named Sean McNatt to act as interim superintendent during Edmonson's absence.

THE WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE PRESENTS

Ask the Treasurer

Wednesday October 20, 2021
6:00 PM

Eric R. Sabree
Wayne County Treasurer

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